

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, rooted in the culture of West Africa, the technique used to create sweetgrass baskets in the South Carolina Lowcountry has been passed from one generation to the next for more than three hundred years, giving this unique art form the distinction of being one of the oldest of African origin in our country; and

WHEREAS, first used in the Palmetto State for agricultural purposes, the baskets were adapted for household storage of food products and medical herbs; and

WHEREAS, by the early twentieth century, sweetgrass basket making was established as a family business, stimulating the creativity of the artisans in order to compete in the growing market; and

WHEREAS, primarily located in the Mt. Pleasant area, the original sweetgrass basket makers continue to craft beautifully designed, extraordinary products that appeal to consumers, collectors, and museums alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 1 – 4, 2005, as

SWEETGRASS BASKET WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the valuable role of this African art form in the rich history and heritage of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA